KP

Bledsoe, Mary

MEMORANDUM

Internal Circular

March 10, 1964

TO: Mr. Joseph A. Bell
Mr. David W. Belin

FROM: Leon D. Hubert Jr.
Burt W. Griffin

SUBJECT: The testimony of Mary Bledsoe and William Wayne Whaley.

1. Mary Bledsoe. In light of our memorandum of March 6th and our previous conversations with respect to Earlene Roberts, Mrs. Bledsoe should be carefully examined to ascertain the following:

a. Whether or not Oswald's pattern of activities as a roomer while at the Bledsoe house differ in any particular respect from his pattern of activities as described by Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Johnson at 1026 N. Beckley.

b. Any information Mrs. Bledsoe may have as to how Oswald happened to locate the room at 1026 N. Beckley. (General impression that some people have that Oswald found the room at 1026 N. Beckley through a newspaper advertisement or sign seems inconsistent with the statement of Mrs. Johnson, that, when Oswald first inquired concerning a room, she told him she had none available, except for the room next to Mrs. Roberts which she ordinarily did not rent, but that when he returned a second time, she agreed to make it available.)

c. Whether or not Mrs. Bledsoe knew of any difficulties that Oswald was experiencing finding another place to live.

d. Whether or not Mrs. Bledsoe had communicated her dissatisfaction or knowledge of Oswald to any other persons including, especially, others who operated rooming houses.

e. Whether Mrs. Bledsoe was at any time aware of Oswald's background prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

f. The familiarity of rooming house operators in the Oak Cliff area with one another and Mrs. Bledsoe's acquaintanceship with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Earlene Roberts, and any other persons whom she may specify, (especially Bertha Cheeks) who operate rooming houses. In this regard, it would not be wise to specifically mention the name of Bertha Cheeks.

g. Whether or not Mrs. Bledsoe knows or rents to any persons who are employees or patrons of the Carousel Club or who are friends or associates of Jack Ruby, or who are employees or patrons of the Vegas Club. Also, friends of George Senator, Ralph Paul, or Eva Grant.

h. Any interviews she may have had on TV or radio, including the date, time, person and station doing the interviewing, place of the interview and approximate time that the interview was shown on TV or heard on radio.

i. Her own activities in detail from the time she saw Oswald on November 22nd until Ruby shot Oswald. The purpose of this would be to ascertain how the police came to learn about her, the extent to which her testimony may now be colored by pressure from friends, the police, or the press and to provide a standard of comparison against the conduct of Earlene Roberts after the shooting of President Kennedy.

j. All of her rooming house records covering the period September 26, to date. The purpose here is to enable us to ascertain whether anyone who lived at the Bledsoe house when Oswald did could form a link either to Ruby or to the 1026 N. Beckley house.

k. Oswald's habits with respect to telephone calls; eating meals (including any places Mrs. Bledsoe knew of where he did eat); laundry and dress, (there is evidence that Oswald had occasion to have a white shirt laundered, and a tie and a pair of pants pressed which would indicate that while he was working at the Schoolbook Depository, he was enjoying some night life or visiting under circumstances where it would be necessary to have some sort of semi-formal attire); his habits with respect to buying or reading newspapers (in that regard if Oswald was not observed to have newspapers at the Bledsoe residence, it would indicate that he had access to and was reading them either at work or at the home of some associate, since Oswald seems to us to have been a person who would keep himself informed habitually. If the people at the Texas Schoolbook Depository did not testify to his habit of reading a newspaper, there would be a strong indication that Oswald did make the practice of spending some time every day away from his rooming house and job with other people).

2. William Harper Whaley. Whaley has stated that he was acquainted with Jack Ruby prior to Ruby's killing Oswald. Although we do not suggest that Whaley may be linked to Ruby in any kind of conspiratorial plot, his knowledge of Ruby suggests that, if Ruby were involved in any sort of plot wherein Oswald were to be a dupe, a conspiratorial group might have used Larry Crafard (who many persons state closely resembled Oswald) as a deliberate decoy, or that Crafard himself may be the real assassin and that, fortuitously, both Crafard and Oswald happened to take [illegible]. In that regard, it might be considered that an assassin or conspirator in a plot to assassinate the President who was not detained for any period in the Schoolbook Depository, as was Oswald, might very well have ordered a cab at 12:30 PM making the trip that Whaley claims Oswald took. To gain more evidence with respect to this possibility, investigation should be undertaken by:

a. Carefully questioning Whaley with respect to his identification of Oswald including questioning as to identifying scars, marks, dress which might distinguish between Oswald and Crafard or any other person who may resemble Oswald.

b. A check of taxi company record to ascertain whether or not any persons were picked up in the Oak Cliff - Jack Ruby residential area and driven to the vicinity of the Carousel Club between 12:30 and 1:30 PM on November 22nd.

c. An examination of bus schedules in the Jack Ruby - Oak Cliff residential area to determine possibility of picking up a bus to return to the Carousel Club before 1:30 PM.

Note: With respcase to the lines of inquiry suggested by a, b, and c above, we are aware that the Dallas Police records indicate that Oswald admitted that he had taken a taxi ride as Whaley says he did; nevertheless, there remains the possibility that Whaley's passenger was Crafard and not Oswald, and that therefore the Dallas Police record is incorrect or that Oswald admitted the episode only after being told about it and in an effort to further complicate the situation; or that both Oswald and Crafard took taxi rides, but in fact Crafard was Whaley's passenger.

3. Bledsoe and Whaley together with all other governmental witnesses should be asked the general question whether anyone has given them information concerning Jack Ruby, Lee Oswald, or associates of either one. If the answer is in the affirmative, the witness should then be interviewed after testifying before the Commission to gather all information that may have been passed on to that person, including the source of such information and approximate time the information was provided.